

BELMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Belmont Town Hall

Attending: Co-Chair Michael Smith, Co-Chair, Paul Bell, Richard Cheek, Lisa Harrington, Arleyn Levee, Nancy Richards, Allan Vanderley

Guests: Sarah Bush, Joseph DeStefano, Brad Lewis, Justin Roe, Rosemary Scully, Leo Yazakov

1. REVIEW APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR PROPOSED ADDITION TO 25 SOMERSET STREET.

Joseph DeStefano present updated drawings of proposed port cochere, which now includes a flat seam copper roof. Richard Cheek asked that for the record, Mr. DeStefano additionally provide a floor plan, showing the volume of the addition in relation to the rest of the building. All were in favor, and the Certificate of Appropriateness was approved.

2. REVIEW APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR PROPOSED RENOVATIONS AT 701 PLEASANT STREET.

Sarah Bush, owner of 701 Pleasant Street and contractor, Leo Yazakov, proposed the addition of three skylights in addition to an existing skylight on the rear roof slope. This roof may be visible from Center Avenue. The BHDC recommended changing the dimensions of the skylights from square (4x4) to a narrower, more rectilinear shape, in keeping with the rectilinear shaped windows of the building. To further reduce the prominence of the skylights, the BHDC also recommended limiting the number of skylights to a total of three same-sized windows, with the third (bathroom) skylight to be allowed only if it cannot be seen from the public way. Ms. Bush and Mr. Yazakov will have plans drawn to scale and will submit these with other required product information for the skylights to a subcommittee for approval. After the subcommittee has also established whether the rear roof is visible from the public way, then a Certificate of Appropriateness will be issued.

3. DISCUSS PRELIMINARY PLANS TO ADD RAILINGS TO THE FRONT STAIRWAY AT 529 PLEASANT STREET.

Owner Justin Roe proposed that railings be installed along the exterior stairs on the front and side of the front porch. Commission members suggested wooden railings for the front stairs that would be similar in design to the existing railing between the columns of

the porch and a simple iron railing without adornment for the granite steps at the side. The owner will provide a design proposal and will return with an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

4. UPDATE ON THE EFFORT TO PRESERVE THE BENTON LIBRARY AS A TOWN BUILDING, TO FIND NEW COMMUNITY USES FOR IT, AND TO HAVE THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION DECLARE THE BUILDING ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.

The Board of Selectmen is willing to consider a proposal from neighborhood groups and other interested parties for the continued public use of the Benton building. The Commission is awaiting a response from MHC as to the Benton's eligibility for the National Register.

5. Update on THE BELMONT STREET / TRAPELO ROAD CORRIDOR PROJECT.

Arleyn Levee stated that the project is currently in limbo; the project cannot proceed until things move forward monetarily.

6. UPDATE ON COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS.

The BHDC will submit letters to the Board of Selectmen recommending the appointment of Joe Cornish and Lauren Meier as members of the Commission.

7. Review minutes for the meeting of november 5, 2008:

Minutes for August, October, and November were read and accepted.

8. old or new Business:

No old or new business.

Submitted by: Lisa Harrington